

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Stephen M. Jasinski, Phosphate Rock Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
983 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-7711, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: sjasinsk@usgs.gov

Hoa P. Phamdang (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7965
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hphamdan@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN SEPTEMBER 2004

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in September was 2.31 million metric tons (Mt), which was 13% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Production in the Florida and North Carolina region was down 17% from August owing to damage caused by hurricanes Frances and Jeanne that affected Florida. Cumulative production for the first 9 months of 2004 was 5% higher than the same period in 2003.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used in September decreased by 23% from 2.98 Mt in August to 2.28 Mt because of the hurricane-related closures of phosphate rock and fertilizer plants in Florida. Phosphate rock sold or used for January to September was slightly higher in comparison with the same period in 2003. U.S. producer stocks at the end of September decreased slightly from those in the prior month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier, were suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition, Census trade data are not available for the current month. Based on Census figures and data from the Moroccan producer, the USGS estimates that imports of phosphate rock will average about 200,000 tons per month in 2004. Table 4

shows phosphate rock exports from Moroccan for the first 9 months of 2004.

Initial estimates indicate that domestic consumption in 2004 could be 37.7 Mt, using annualized sales and use data and trade estimates. Apparent domestic consumption for 2003 was 37.8 Mt.

Hurricane Frances, which swept through the central Florida phosphate region on September 5, caused extensive power failures and structural damage to production facilities. Mine production was stopped for up to 5 days because of excessive water in some mines (Green Markets, 2004a). Hurricane Jeanne passed through the region on September 26 and caused temporary closures at all mines in the region (Green Markets, 2004b).

References Cited

- Green Markets, 2004a, Hurricane Frances: slow, drenching, damaging; Ivan coming: Green Markets, v. 28, no. 37, September 13, p. 1, 11-12.
Green Markets, 2004b, Stronger Hurricane Jeanne follows Frances' path through Florida: Green Markets, v. 28, no. 40, October 4, p. 1, 11-12.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2003:									
January-September	21,300	3,870	25,200	22,300	3,940	26,200	XX	XX	XX
September	2,550	415	2,970	2,610	405	3,010	5,460	2,050	7,510
October	2,650	430	3,080	2,720	369	3,090	5,430	2,110	7,540
November	2,450	348	2,800	2,610	496	3,100	5,260	2,080	7,340
December	2,690	343	3,030	2,610	413	3,020	5,320	2,020	7,330
January-December	29,100	4,990	34,100	30,200	5,210	35,400	XX	XX	XX
2004:									
January	2,720	335	3,060	2,660	424	3,080	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	343	2,920	2,420	454	2,870	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200	2,550	434	2,980	5,750	1,720	7,470
April	2,600	335	2,940	2,640	415	3,050	5,720	1,640	7,360
May	2,700	525	3,220	2,720	384	3,110	5,680	1,780	7,460
June	2,550	524	3,070	2,470	338	2,800	5,750	1,840	7,590
July	2,700	466 ^r	3,160 ^r	2,810	426 ^r	3,210 ^r	5,750	1,880	7,630
August	2,120	542 ^r	2,660 ^r	2,480	505 ^r	2,980 ^r	5,430	1,920	7,340
September	1,760	550	2,310	1,880	407	2,280	5,150	2,060	7,210
Total	22,600	3,960	26,500	22,600	3,790	26,400	XX	XX	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
January-September	963	34,900
September	130	4,990
October	63	1,690
November	93	3,990
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,350	48,800
Total year ³	2,400	84,000
2004: ⁴		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
March	145	5,580
April	28	760
May	180	6,650
June	146	5,700
July	63	1,720
August	157	6,030
Total	993	36,100

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2002	2003	2004 ^{e,1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	31.1	29.1	30.2
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.0	5.3
Total ²	36.1	34.1	35.5
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.8	30.2	30.2
Idaho and Utah	4.9	5.2	5.1
Total ²	34.7	35.4	35.3
Yearend stocks	8.9	7.3	7.2
Exports	(3) ⁴	W	--
Average value per ton	W	W	NA
Imports for consumption ^e	2.7	2.4	2.4
Average value per ton	\$41.45	\$35.55	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e,5}	37.4	37.8	37.7

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

⁴Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

⁵Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS¹
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2004

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	95
Austria	127
Belgium	320
Brazil	722
Colombia	15
France	338
Germany	126
Greece	101
India	731
Indonesia	90
Iran	25
Italy	103
Japan	51
Korea, Republic of	215
Lithuania	30
Mexico	680
New Zealand	326
Pakistan	188
Peru	35
Poland	645
Portugal	40
Romania	214
Serbia and Montenegro	187
Spain	1,200
Thailand	108
United States	1,890
Venezuela	106
Total	8,700

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco.